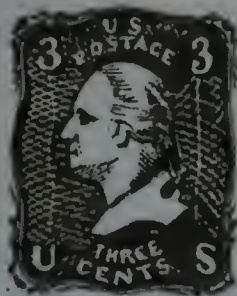


MASON'S
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MAGAZINE.

Vol. 4.

MARCH, 1870.

No. 3.

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MASON'S

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COINS OF JAPAN IN THE UNITED STATES MINT.

COMPILED BY C. M. WILKINS, U. S. M.

The Oban (the penalty is death to take this coin out of the country intentionally, and ten years imprisonment if taken out accidentally) was recently procured. The weight 5.30 ounce, fine 667, value \$75. The coins are of gold, silver, copper, brass and iron. The principal gold coin is the Cobang, of which we have three sizes, according to the changes which have been made during the past sixty years. This coin is of oval shape, very thin, and easily bent. It is largely alloyed with silver, but the silver being taken out of the surface by a solvent the coin looks like fine gold, until it has been a good deal worn. This accounts for the very pale color of the first specimen, and of *another* in which we have scratched off part of the surface, to show the true color.

No. 1 is a Cobang, supposed to be about sixty years old. It weighs $201\frac{1}{2}$ grains. It is two thirds gold and one third silver, or as we express it by 1000, it is 667-1000 fine. Its value, including the silver, is \$5 95.

No. 2, Cobang coined within a few years past, weighs 174 grains. It is four sevenths gold and three sevenths silver. The exact fineness in 1000 is 568. Value, including the silver, is \$4 44.

Nos. 3 and 4, Cobangs of very recent date, brought by the embassy for assay. They are exactly alike except one small mark. Weight, 135 grains. Their fineness about 571 grains, which is precisely four sevenths and appears to be definite legal standard. Value, including the silver, is \$3 57 each. Without the silver, \$3 41.

Nos. 5 and 6, two small and rectangular coins, with a gold surface, which (by specific gravity) are about one third gold. The weight is $25\frac{1}{2}$ grains. Their name and place in the series are not known to us.

No. 7, rectangular coin, is half the value of the Cobang No. 2, but (by specific gravity) contains little more than one fourth gold. The remainder appears to be silver. This piece is not understood.

No. 8, also rectangular, is called the gold Itzibu, one fourth the weight of the Cobang No. 2. Same fineness very nearly. Value, \$1 11.

Nos. 9 and 10 are the even gold Itzibu, bought by the Am-

bassador for assay and are one fourth of the weight of the Cobang brought by them. Value, \$89 25.

No. 11, an old one half silver Itzibu, is one of the several pieces which were given to an officer of the United States Exploring Expedition, about the year 1840, by some Japanese sailors who had drifted far out into the Pacific Ocean and were picked up and taken care of. Afterwards by the wreck of one of our vessels, all the coins were lost except this one. It was our first specimen of Japan coins. Weight, 41 grains, and being near fine silver is worth a little over 11 cents.

No. 12 is a silver Itzibu, coined some years since. Weight, $134\frac{1}{2}$ grains. 9.98 to 990-1000 fine. Worth \$36 9.

No. 13 weighs $28\frac{1}{2}$ grains, and appears also to be nearly fine. Value, 8 cents. Name not known.

No. 14, a new silver Itzibu, brought by the embassy. Weight, same as the old Itzibu, $134\frac{1}{2}$ grains, but is only 890-1000 fine, which is near our standard, 900. Value, \$33 28.

No. 15, a large thick piece of brass, oval and cast with a square hole in the centre. Said to be a piece of one hundred Pesenny.

No. 16, a copper coin. Circular. Square hole in the centre.

No. 17, an iron coin (circulated), with a rough edge, with a hole in the centre.

No. 18, Half Itzibu of Hakadadi. Size of half eagle.

No. 19, gold coin, round. Has various characteristic Japanese emblems. Name unknown. Value, \$1 75.

NUMISMATIC NOMENCLATURE; OR, THE COIN COLLECTORS' LEXICON.

BY E. MASON, JR.

In presenting the following dictionary of the terms in use by the majority of numismatists in the United States, we are actuated by two motives: one to furnish a guide to the novice; the other to urge upon the collectors the necessity of adopting a few proper terms that correctly designate the condition and variety of a coin, medal, etc., and thus dispense with the useless and meaningless titles and phrases now of such common occurrence.

Altered.—Frequently used in reference to date, although referring to any alteration whereby the coin presents a deceptive appearance.

Abrasion.—(See *Rubbed*.)

Alloyed.—Most generally used in reference to the nickel and bronze coinage.

Battered.—Hammered or beaten—used to express an intentional injury to a coin, differing from an accidental bruise.

Blemished.—Expresses a slight injury to a proof piece—such as finger-marks, or discolorations caused by the dye in velvet, which is used extensively for lining drawers of cabinets or cases.

Base.—Used to express a counterfeit piece.

Blistered.—Coin presenting slight elevations on the surface.

Bold.—A sharp or fierce impression, showing all the designs in good relief.

Booby Head.—Referring to the stupid looking head of Liberty on some of the U. S. cents of 1839.

Bright Red.—Representing the color of the coin when first minted.

Bright and Uncirculated.—(See *Bright Red*.)

Brilliant.—Used only in relation to proof impressions that have an extra brightness, much like the polished surface of a mirror.

Bronze.—Composition of copper and nickel, of which metals our present one and two cent pieces are made, and are termed "bronze coins."

Bronzed.—A coin or medal covered with a chemical preparation, to imitate the action of nature.

Broken Die.—A piece struck from a die that has been broken in two or more pieces and banded together for further use.

Bruised.—Rough nicks or furrows in the metal or ugly marks on any portion of the piece.

Burnished.—Polished by mechanical means to represent a proof.

Carved.—(See *Tooled*.)

Cast.—Moulded to imitate a genuine piece.

Classic Head.—A term applied to the head of Liberty. Found on some of the United States silver coins, and the copper cents, 1808 to 1814 inclusive, and the half cents from 1809 to 1811 inclusive.

Clipped.—Piece cut from the edge of a coin, etc., as in the case of some of the United States cents of 1795, and many of the London Elephant tokens.

Cleaned.—Showing bright portions of copper, as if brushed or rubbed.

Cracked Die.—Raised lines or marks, at various angles on the surface of a piece.

Corroded.—Metal injured by rust or verdigris.

Colored.—When a copper piece is cleaned, brightened and heated, it produces an olive color.

Cross Boned.—Cleaned with a poisonous acid, which is obtained of the druggist in bottles, labeled with death's head and cross bones; hence the name. Used on coins to reproduce a proof polish.

Copy.—An electrotpe or imitation, however made.

Circulated.—Worn, rubbed or injured by abrasion.*

Damaged.—Pierced, bored or portion of the metal injured.

Double Head.—Two heads upon the obverse of a coin or head upon each side, as on some of the Washington cents.

*It will be noticed by the reader that this term is not used particularly to designate coins circulated from hand to hand, but has a general application to rubbed or worn pieces, without regard to the literal application of the word; so also, as regards the term *uncirculated*. No matter how often a coin passes from one to another, if uninjured, numismatists generally term it "uncirculated."

Double Strike.—A planchet struck twice. Of frequent occurrence on our colonial coins. (See *Overstrike*.)

Dropped 4.—A variety in date, where the figure 4 is below the line of the other figures, as on some of the 1794 cents.

(*To be continued.*)

THE PRECIOUS STONES, THEIR HISTORY AND VALUE.

Including the Diamond, Sapphire, Ruby, Topaz, Emerald, Amethyst, Carnelian, Garnet, Onyx, Sardonyx, Heliotrope, Chrysolite, Hyacinth, Cat's Eye, Opal, Pearl and Turquoise.

BY H. R.

(*Continued.*)

Diamonds were first found in Brazil in 1738, and during that same year it is stated, in the history of the period, that about eighty pounds avoirdupois (!) were taken to Europe by the Portuguese. This statement must be taken doubtlessly *cum grano*, or rather with a great many *grains*, if not indeed *pounds*, of allowance. They were, however, brought in sufficient quantities to alarm those in possession of the already discovered Diamonds, and they disseminated the worst slanders against the new stones, alleging that they were less hard than the Oriental ones, and calling them contemptuously Portuguese Diamonds. But they came forth unscathed from the most searching tests, and public opinion was at last obliged to acknowledge their legitimacy.

They still continue to be found in Brazil in considerable quantities, and the pursuit constitutes a large and important business. The Diamonds are found in a loose gravel, consisting principally of rounded quartz pebbles, mixed with sand and oxide of iron, and accompanied with blue, yellow and white topazes.

In the centre of the Diamond region is the town of Diamantina; situated upon the Rio Preto, a branch of the Trapajos, itself one of the great southern tributaries of the Amazon. This region consists of broken highlands, constituting the dividing ridge between the streams flowing north into the Amazon, and those running south into the La Plata. Up to the year 1849, it had yielded ten million dollars worth of these stones; and it is now said to produce about fifteen thousand carats per annum, less than a tenth of which however is fit for jewelry. Its climate is very unhealthy, and has already cost Brazil the lives of one hundred thousand men.

The expenses of living in Diamantina are excessively high; the various species of merchandise bringing eight hundred per cent. advance on their price at Para. Traders between these two places exchange their goods for Diamonds and gold, for the latter also exists most abundantly in this region, and return to Para, after an eight months' absence, with a realized profit of five hundred per cent. on their original outlay.

The principal Indian mines are named Raolconda, Gani, Soumel-

pour and Saccadan, and are located in the kingdoms of Golconda, Visapour and Bengal, and in the island of Borneo. The first of these is rocky; the second terraqueous; and the other two are sandy or river mines.

In the first, the Diamonds are washed out of earthy and gravelly matter, that is, drawn by hooked iron instruments from the fissures in the rocks, into which this matter had been carried by rains or desiccated streams.

In the second, they are washed in sieves from certain earthy and vegetable deposits, lying about twelve feet beneath the surface of the ground. In these mines the stones are generally found enveloped in earthy lumps.

The workers in these mines, men, women and children, are all slaves—the overseers alone being freemen—and, while at work, must be perfectly nude, with the exception of a strip of cloth round the loins. And yet, despite all precautions, the workers sometimes secrete these stones, by swallowing them, by hiding them in ulcers, and by secreting them in the corners of their eyes. As an incentive to activity and faithfulness, every slave, on finding a Diamond of prescribed weight, is pronounced free, and may go where and engage in what he chooses. The required weight differs perhaps in each mine; but both in Asia and South America it varies not under fifteen nor above twenty carats.

The mine of Soumelpour is nigh a town of the same name. This town, lying on the banks of the river Gouel, is large, and the houses are built of earth covered with cocoanut tree branches. The Diamond hunting period at this place and at Saccadan is immediately after the rainy season in December. The stones are obtained by sifting the river sands. In each of the above named mines, from fifty to sixty thousand persons are employed.

The other Asiatic mines of less importance are in the central and southern part of India proper, and in the peninsula of Malacca.

(To be continued.)

ENGLISH SILVER COINS, FROM THE NORMAN CONQUEST.

ARRANGED BY E. M., JR.

[Selected from Ackerman's Numismatic Manual, now out of print.]

WILLIAM I, A. D. 1066, AND WILLIAM II, A. D. 1087.

Obverse.—The coins of these two kings are not in all cases to be distinguished from each other, but those with the two sceptres, and with the sword in the right hand, are generally assigned to the Conqueror. Those with the stars on each side of the head, or with a single star, are attributed to Rufus, as they are always on his great seal. The portraits on the coins of these kings are generally full faced, but there are some of each with the head in profile. The legends round the head are PILLEMVS . REX A . PILLEM. PILLEMV, etc.; some have also ANGLOR . ANG ., &c.

Reverse.—The reverses are various, and consist for the most part of ornamented crosses. The legends are the names of the moneyers, a practice which continued until the beginning of the reign of the first Edward: thus, GOD PINE ON LIN, on the reverse, signifies that the piece was coined by Godfrey, of Lincoln, the *on* being then generally used for the preposition *of*. The names of towns and moneyers are very numerous on the coins of the two Williams.

Rarity.—The coins of William I and William Rufus are scarce, and some with rare types bring, of course, a higher price than the others. The coins of the first William, which have a kind of canopy over the head, are very rare. These kings coined pennies only.

HENRY I, A. D. 1100.

Obverse.—The coins of Henry I are not known from those of Henry II. The types of the pennies ascribed to Henry I are various. Some have the head full faced, others in profile, and several have stars on the left side of the bust. The legends are generally HENRI REX. HENRIC. HENRICUS. with the style R. RE. A. AN., etc.

Reverse.—There are many reverses of the coins of Henry I; but, with a few exceptions, they consist of ornamented crosses; some have quartfoils, with pellets or bezants within them; some have the word PAX, and others a Gothic ornament, with an annulet in the centre of the crosses. The legends, like those of the preceding monarchs, consist of the names of the moneyers and the towns in which the pieces were struck. Of these there are upwards of forty. Only pennies are known of this king, although the chronicles tell us of the coinage of half-pence and farthings.

Rarity.—The coins attributed to Henry I are all rare, and three or four types particularly so.

(To be continued.)

GREAT MICKLEY SALE IN NEW YORK.

NOVEMBER, 1867.

(Continued.)

Castorland Half Dollar, 1796; proof; silver. \$3 25.

Castorland Half Dollar, 1796; milled edge; bronze proof. \$1 12½.

Castorland Half Dollar, 1796; plain edge; bronze proof. \$1.

Immunis Columbia, 1786; Liberty seated; reverse, shield, E. PLURIBUS UNUM; New Jersey Immunis Columbia; uncirculated; one of the rarest Colonials. \$32 50.

New Jersey Cent, 1785; obverse, plow and horse's head. The peculiarity of this piece consists in having the date directly under the plow beam; extremely rare. \$65.

New Jersey Cent, 1786; obverse, long low plow; nearly proof. \$1 25.

New Jersey Cent, 1785; horse's head without ears; nearly proof; rare. \$1.

New Jersey Cent, 1787; plow large; beam much curved; nearly proof; rare. \$1 25.

New Jersey Cent, 1786; plow handles with knobs. 30 cents.

New Jersey Cent, 1786; plow nearly straight; uncirculated. 75 cents.

New Jersey Cent, 1787; plow low and much curved; scarcely circulated. 75 cents.

New Jersey Cent, 1786; small plow with knobs. 25 cents.

New Jersey Cent, 1786; large broad shield; fine. $62\frac{1}{2}$ cents.

New Jersey Cent, 1786; small shield; good. 30 cents.

New Jersey Cents, 1787; a selection of nine pieces; no duplicates; all good, and several strictly fine. 50 cents.

New Jersey Cent, 1787; large planchet; perfectly uncirculated. \$1.

New Jersey Cent, 1787; planchet of the largest size; condition very fine; rare. \$1.

New Jersey Cent, 1787; two sprigs under the shield; very large size; proof; rare. \$1.

New Jersey Cent, 1787; shield without the sprigs; uncirculated. $62\frac{1}{2}$ cents.

New Jersey Cent, 1787; small, high plow; uncirculated. $62\frac{1}{2}$ cents.

New Jersey Cent, 1787; horse's neck very long; a curious variety; uncirculated. 75 cents.

New Jersey Cent, 1787; plow with knobs; small size; uncirculated. 50 cents.

New Jersey Cent, 1787; struck in brass; fine and exceedingly rare in this metal. I have never met with another. \$2.

New Jersey Cent, 1787; small, straight plow; uncirculated. $62\frac{1}{2}$ cents.

New Jersey Cent, 1787; plow beam perfectly straight; uncirculated. $62\frac{1}{2}$ cents.

New Jersey Cent, 1787; horse's head, with long neck; arched; fine. 50 cents.

New Jersey Cent, 1787; horse's head very small, smaller than in any other variety; very fine. $62\frac{1}{2}$ cents.

(To be continued.)

AN HISTORICAL SKETCH OF CONTINENTAL PAPER MONEY.

BY SAMUEL BRECK, ESQ.

(Continued.)

New emissions continued until two hundred millions of dollars were in circulation at one time; that is to say, seven or eight times as much as was wanted for a circulating medium: consisting, too, of bills bearing no interest, having no specific fund for its redemption, nothing, in short, but the promise of a government ill-organized and in a state of revolution. They could not fail to break down. No patriotism, however ardent, could sustain them. Yet the brave men at the head of affairs went into a computation suited to allay the

fears of the people, and showed by a state paper, which will be presently cited, that resources belonged to the country sufficient to meet all demands.

But the last day of the usefulness of Continental Paper Money was fast approaching. The bills of the individual States had generally become so worthless that even Congress would not receive them into its treasury. Congressional bills were, however, kept in circulation at a great discount until May, 1781, when they fell to five hundred, and subsequently to one thousand paper dollars for one silver, and ceased as a currency. Two hundred millions lost all their value, and were laid aside. The annihilation was so complete that barber shops were papered, in jest, with the bills; and the sailors, on returning from their cruise, being paid off in bundles of this worthless money, had suits of clothes made of it, and with characteristic light-heartedness turned their loss into a frolic by parading through the streets in decayed finery, which, in its better days, had passed for thousands of dollars!

The campaign of 1781 was carried on in solid coin. Nevertheless, the bills of a few of the States still lingered in circulation. I have in my possession the receipt of Thomas Knox, dated at Boston, in that year, for three thousand three hundred dollars, for piloting in and out of port, a distance of nine miles each way, the French frigate, *L'Astree*, commanded by the celebrated Laperouse. The specie price was twenty dollars. I possess, likewise, original documentary papers, in tabular detail, showing a loss by the public chest of Rochambeau's army of one million six hundred and sixty-one thousand eight hundred and seventy-two dollars. The intendant of the army endorsed on the bundles, "This paper being at present valueless, the loss must be charged to the king." But it must be recollected that for some years its most favorable discount was forty for one. In General Washington's account current with the United States, the last transaction in paper currency is dated May, 1781.

The discredit and final rejection of that money was owing, in a great measure, to the illiberal terms of the confederation. Had Congress possessed, unfettered, the power of taxation and levying of imposts, the emissions would have been moderate, and somewhat proportioned to the specie in the country. But what could they do under such a compact as follows?

1. They were authorized to recommend to the several States, and nothing more; the consent of every one of which was necessary to give legal sanction to any act so recommended.
2. They could not assess or levy taxes.
3. They had no power to execute punishments, except in the military department.
4. They could not regulate trade.
5. They could institute no general judicial powers.
6. Neither could they regulate public roads or inland navigation.

(To be continued.)

THE MINT AT PHILADELPHIA.

(Continued.)

That dial is not exactly a clock, though it looks like one. Do you see the little crank handle on it; above the hands? That is to regulate the space between the rollers. By turning it, the distance is increased or reduced, and the hands of the dial are moved by the same means, to show the interval between them. For instance, when the hands indicate twelve o'clock the rollers are as far apart as they can be. By turning the crank until the hands are at, say, half-past one o'clock, the distance is reduced about the sixteenth of an inch. It has been ascertained that when the hands point to, for instance, half-past six, the rollers will be at the right distance from each other for rolling the strips thin enough for half eagles. So instead of saying, "Roll that strip the eight of an inch thick," it is "Roll it to half-past six." The rollers can be brought very close together. Give him that visiting card in your hand—there, it is pressed so hard that its texture is destroyed, and it crumbles like crisp pie crust.

This dial arrangement, and some other improvements in the mill, are due to Mr. Franklin Peale, former chief coiner of the Mint, who devised it for the purpose of securing greater accuracy in measuring the distance between the rollers.

The pressure applied is so intense that half a day's rolling heats, not only the strips and rollers, but even the huge iron stanchions, weighing several tons, so hot that you can hardly hold your hand on them.

Every mill can be altered to roll to any degree of thinness, but usually the ingot passes through several mills, each reducing it slightly. This is quicker than altering the gauge so frequently.

When the rolling is completed, the strip is about six feet long, or six times as long as the ingot.

It is impossible to roll perfectly true. Now and then there will be a lump of hard gold, which will not be quite so much compressed as the rest. If the coin were cut from this place, it would be heavier and more valuable than one cut from a thinner portion of the strip. It is, therefore, necessary to "draw" the strips, they first being softened by annealing.

Just turn to your right and see those long round copper boxes, into which that clever, plump-looking man is putting the gold strips. He'll tell us all about it.

"Yes, mum; ye see we have to anneal this here gold, to make it soft so we can draw it. So we puts it in these boxes, and put on the cover and seals it up air tight with clay. It don't do to anneal gold in the open fire like as we can silver; for if we only get a hole in the box no larger than the head of a pin, it will let in the air and turn the color of the whole gold. They call it oxydizing. In that furnace we anneal the silver, but we don't put silver into boxes, 'cause we can heat that in the open air without its turning. We put these boxes into this furnace—you can look in at the door while I lift it up.

Those in there are red hot, and we keep 'em in about an hour, mum, till all the gold gets red hot, too. It would twist about like a snake, if we took out a strip while it was so hot. When it is well *het* we take the boxes out with tongs, and put 'em into that tank of water to cool 'em, mum. There's from a thousand to twelve hundred dollars in every one of those strips, mum."

(*To be continued.*)

GREEK AND ROMAN COINS.

"A series of an emperor's coins is his life digested into annals." *Addison.*

COMPILED BY E. M., JR.

[We propose, in the present series of articles upon ancient coins, to give the most interesting facts connected with the history of the Greek and Roman coinage; also, a description of the coins, furnishing the student with a key to the mysterious abbreviations, legends and figures found upon these peculiar coins, selected and arranged from the best authors, in easy lessons for the instruction and benefit of the novice.]

GREEK CIVIC COINS.*

Coins of Ægina—Various Denominations of Greek Silver Coins—Copper Coins, with their Divisions—Gold Coins of Sicily of an Early Date—Small Gold Coins of Cyrene—Gold Coins of various Cities in Greece—List of Coins of Cities using Greek Characters.

The first coins possessing the least interest are those of Greece: the earliest of these have on one side an indented square, and on the other the rude representation of a tortoise, or turtle, for it is impossible to say for which of these two creatures it is intended. They are supposed to have been struck in the island of Ægina, by Phidon, king of Argos, 820 years before the Christian era. This king, as we are informed by the Chronicles of the Marbles of Paros, first taught the Greeks the art of coining money, and there is every reason for supposing that the pieces alluded to were their first essay. The earliest coins of the Greeks are without letters, and the most ancient are those with the indentations on one side. In progress of time letters were added, and then reverses; the latter, although in relief, being within an indented square. The early coins of Rhodes may be cited as an example. The silver coins of the Greeks were the Tetradrachm, or piece of 4 drachms; the Tridrachm, or piece of 3 drachms; the Didrachm, or piece of 2 drachms; the Drachm, of which there were many divisions, as the Tetrabolion, weighing about 44 grains; the Hemidrachm, or Triobolion, of 33 grains; the Diobolion, one third of the drachm, and weighing about 22 grains; the Obolus, of 11 grains; the Hemiobolion of $5\frac{1}{2}$ grains; and the Tetartobolion, or quarter Obolus, a coin of $2\frac{3}{4}$ grains! They had also a coin of half the size of the latter, but none of these have yet been discovered.

The coins of Athens and Corinth are the commonest, and it is

* Ackerman, London, 1832.

somewhat singular that the former are inferior both in design and execution to those of other Greek cities.

The period when copper was first coined in Greece cannot be precisely ascertained, but it is supposed to have been about four hundred years before Christ. Athenians says that Dionysius the poet was called "the Brazen Orator," because he persuaded the Athenians to coin money of that metal. The first and largest piece of brass was the chalcos, two of which were only equal in value to the tetartobolion. The Greeks appear to have held this money in contempt, and in those days, "not worth a chalcos" was a common expression; it is frequently used by Demosthenes and other writers. Subsequently, however, the chalcos was divided into parts, till at length it had eight divisions.

(To be continued.)


CORRESPONDENCE.

NO. 68 WILLIAM STREET, NEW YORK, Feb. 7, 1870.

DEAR SIR:—I hope you will give me credit for stating *sincerely* that I am pleased to notice a very decided improvement in the last two numbers of your magazine. The entire absence of abuse will do much to encourage the circulation of it and I have looked over it with more pleasure than I have for a considerable time. I shall want another copy, and if you will let me know whether you can supply it and some more if I want them, I will send you the money.

Yours, faithfully,

EDWARD COGAN.

[Thank you, brother Cogan, for the kind remarks you have favored us with, and trust you will not find fault with us for letting the public know that the long standing case of "Cogan vs. Mason" has been satisfactorily adjusted. Give us your  for ninety days: but do not make a note of it. Ed.]

BOSTON, December, 1869.

GENTLEMEN:—The volume of your Coin and Stamp Collectors' Magazine, for 1869, which I sent for early this week, is received.

I am just resuming an interest in coins, after a recess of thirty or forty years, when I was a boy. Of course, that makes me about the same as a green hand, and as they say in Congress, "I rise for information." Therefore, please send me the Coin Collectors' Manual, muslin, and the Coin Priced Catalogue, for which the money is enclosed. I should like to make a collection of good coins, but the prices of many of our coins, which cannot be considered scarce, especially for uncirculated or proofs, are appalling to a man of shallow pockets and weak nerves. Do you not think the profits are piled up a little too high on some of these things? Now I love to pay a handsome price for a good article, but it *does* go against the grain to be skinned alive.

Then there is another thing,—this buying pigs in a poke. Something is advertised that I want, but it happens to be two hundred

and fifty or three hundred miles off and I cannot see it. It is described as "fine," "uncirculated," "sharp," "scarcy," "rare," "red," "proof," and what not. Well, the "fine" turns out to be not so "demnition fine" after all; showing that tastes differ, and that though I paid my money, I cannot take my choice. This, you see, makes it kind o' bad for the uncultivated victim who still hangs on to his original confidence in human nature. I wish I could see those 1791 cents that you advertise on your December cover, but eighteen dollars is more than I can lavish on a sight of them in case they should not suit. And that 1793 Liberty Cap, too,—is it really "extra good?" and how much is it worth? Come, be human!

Perhaps you will think I am crazy to ask such questions, and I suppose I am. At all events, do not forget to send me the Manual and Priced Catalogue, and believe me,

Your obedient servant,

J. E. R.

[If our good hearted and generous natured correspondent will give us a trial, we promise to please him with a good selection of coins at fair prices, with the privilege of returning those not satisfactory and having his money refunded- Ed.]

NUMISMATIC PERSONALITIES.

BRIGHT RED CENTS.

We have had occasion to speak frequently, through these columns, concerning the *restrike* U. S. cents of 1804. In December last, we received a letter from a correspondent in Troy, N. Y., inquiring if the 1804 cents (having the reverse of the 1820's) were genuine. To save postage and time, we abbreviate our patrons' queries, and insert them in the magazine under the title of "Replies to Correspondents," and in the January number appears the following reply to our Troy correspondent:

"L. M., TROY.—Beware of bright pennies of old dates. Buy them as restrikes, but not as originals."

This reply was intended for the party who addressed us the inquiry above alluded to, not as advice to the public generally, yet, Mr. Cogan, of New York, has jumped at the hasty and ill-timed conclusion that we have pronounced *all* the bright cents from 1817 to 1820, inclusive, to be restrikes, and in the *New York Numismatic Journal* for January commits himself to an error of judgment, which we trust, in justice to J. S. Randall and ourselves, he will take the earliest moment to correct. Here is what Mr. Cogan writes to the *New York Journal*, under the date of January 11:

ALLEGED RESTRIKES OF 1817, 1818, 1819 AND 1820.

When I presented to our society, through my friend, Mr. Betts, at the last meeting, the cents of 1817, '18, '19 and '20, I did so upon the full conviction that they were from the issues of the U. S. Mint, struck in the years of which they bear the date. Judge, then, of my

surprise to find, in Mason & Co.'s Magazine, of this month, a caution against buying these pieces, as being restrikes.

The reader can compare this statement with our own, and he will find it requires a stretch of the imagination to prove our condemnation of the apparently recent coins of 1817 to 1820. We bought some of the bright red cents of above dates from Mr. Randall, and know them to be genuine, have sold them as such, and regret that Mr. Cogan should apply the matter intended for a correspondent to himself, and publish the incorrect version of our remarks in an influential and highly reputed numismatic contemporary. We have written to the New York publication, in which Mr. Cogan's charge appeared, and trust that Prof. Anthon will give our remarks the same publicity as Mr. Cogan's.

MINT DROPS—ORIGINAL AND SELECTED.

KELLEY'S BILL, in the United States Congress, recommending the issue of one, three and five cent nickel pieces, has been smothered at Washington. Next comes the fifty, twenty-five and ten cent silver pieces of reduced values. The latter pieces will never pass on their beauty, but as *light weights* may be recommended to Congress. We shall see.

OTIS BALKE, at Warrensville, Ohio, fired four balls at squirrels, killing three. He took them home and in dressing them found in one a gold dollar.

[The above comes to us from a western exchange, but we find it hard to swallow; perhaps the squirrel had better luck. Ed.]

UP THE NILE.

J. J. Mickley, the respected father of the numismatic fraternity of this city, has been for the past year wandering over the world in search of pleasure and profit as found in scientific pursuits. At last accounts, Mr. Mickley was sailing up the Nile on a voyage of discovery *a la* Bayard Taylor. Good luck and good health to brother Mickley on his tour through Egypt.

COIN SALE.

A small collection of coins, medals and pattern pieces will be offered by catalogue, in this city, about the 25th inst. The collection will embrace several sets of U. S. cents, colonials, medals, rare patterns and a miscellaneous collection of continental and colonial paper money, prints, etc.

FOR SALE.

We offer for sale Randall's celebrated Jefferson Head cent of 1795, the finest piece of this rare type known. Price, \$175. J. C. Randall, the owner of this valuable cent, will warrant it genuine, and we will endorse the warrantee. Address this office for further particulars and an impression of the coin.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

C. R.—“Please inform me what kind of a coin has a bust on one side and the inscription on the other: ‘The man who, having saved the parent, pleaded with success for the children.’ Also please give date of the different Washington Cents.” First, the William Pitt Medal, struck in 1766, in England, in honor of the repeal of the stamp act. Second, 1783, 1791 and 1792 includes the usual variety of the so-called Washington Cents, although there are Washington pieces of other dates that might have been designed for coins.

ARTIST.—The plate of ancient coins in our last issue is not a photograph, but a copper plate impression. You will see the original coins at the Mint in this city.

W. P. A.—Will pay 25 cents each for January numbers of 1870. Have sold the bound book containing three volumes. We do not pay the price named as the value of each volume of the magazine. The book sold was expensively bound. All subscriptions must date hereafter from March 1, unless we can secure back numbers by purchase, which will add to the subscription price 25 cents for each back number.

F. J. M.—Club of ten subscribers received, and magazines mailed. Your efforts to circulate the magazine are kindly appreciated.

N. R.—Mailed the January and February numbers, the last we had.

T. S., BALTIMORE; S. S. C., BOSTON; R. W. McL., MONTREAL; F. P. R., FORT WAYNE; T. R. M., RAVENNA; J. E. C., HOLYOKE; J. E. H., WAVERLY.—All received with thanks no time to answer each separately.

C. P. M., SPRINGFIELD.—Club of four received.

WM. C., SPRINGFIELD.—Club of eleven received.

T. R. M., RAVENNA.—The 1817, 1818, 1819 and 1820 cents, bright red, are not restrikes, nor counterfeits. Those we send for twenty-five cents are fine, but not bright.

BACK NUMBERS.

Our patrons, who possess duplicate copies of this journal, will confer a favor and be rewarded by mailing to us such numbers as they may have no use for. It happens frequently that we mail two copies, by mistake, to subscribers.

UNIQUE.

We had the pleasure of picking up a copper half dime of 1795 recently, *supposed* to be a “trial piece” from the United States Mint. Has any of our readers a duplicate? If not, we pronounce the piece *unique* until further developments disprove the title.

NEW CURRENCY.

The U. S. fractional currency, now in circulation, is to be called in and exchanged for notes more durable, made of a stiff, heavy paper.

THE UNITED STATES MINT.

Col. Wm. M. Runkel, of this city, has recently issued a neat and valuable little pamphlet, under the above title, containing a history of the Mint, with a full description of the manner in which gold, silver, nickel and copper are converted into money. Upon receipt of thirty-five cents, we will mail a copy of this work, free of postage.

ATTENTION ALL.

J. N. T. Levick, one of our early patrons, and an enthusiastic numismatist, has opened a banking house at No. 54 Wall Street, New York. Mr. Levick has our warmest wishes for his success, and all who know him personally know, if honest effort will succeed, his success is assured. Mr. Levick has some rare coin catalogues on sale.

ROCK OIL.

Having prepared a most excellent oil for cleaning coins, we are prepared to send bottles of the preparation to those wishing to clean black or rusty coins. The oil will not tarnish the brightest proof polish. Fifty cents per bottle, free by mail.

PHILATELIC DEPARTMENT.

THE STAMPS OF BERGEDORF.

Bergedorf, situated on the river Bille, about twelve miles from Hamburg, prior to the great war between Prussia and Austria, was under the joint protectorate of Lubeck and Hamburg. The stamps composing the unique set of Bergedorf are square and printed in black upon colored paper, bearing the combined arms of the Free Cities of Lubeck and Hamburg—(Eagle and Castle), and the size of the stamp increases in proportion to the value. In the four corners of the square are the four letters L. H. P. A., meaning Lubeck, Hamburg Post Amt (post office.)

There are two varieties: $\frac{1}{2}$ schilling, black on violet, and 3 schilling, black on rose, that were in use but ten days, and are consequently rare and command a high price. The rest of the set, consisting of $\frac{1}{2}$ schilling, blue, 1 schilling, white, $1\frac{1}{2}$ schilling, yellow, 3 schillings, blue on rose, and 4 schillings, brown, are also obsolete, but comparatively common, selling for fifty cents the set. The stock left on hand by the issues of the war not being receivable for postage was sold to dealers, and when their supply is exhausted they will be more difficult to obtain and increase greatly in value. A set of essays have lately been discovered, which are said to have been prepared to take the place of the set then in circulation, but their emission was prevented by the war. They consist of the same values, and do not differ materially from those they were to supersede. The peculiarity of the design and size of the Bergedorf stamps make them a desirable acquisition to the collector's album.

NEW ISSUES.

UNITED STATES.—There is now being printed a new three cent stamp for this Government. It has the profile of Washington in the centre in an oval, and is the prettiest and best stamp this Government has ever issued.

ITALY.—We have received a set of labels from this kingdom, consisting of the following values and colors, 1, 2, 5, 30, 40, 50 and 60 centesimii, bistre; 1 and 2 lire, blue. The design is an oblong, with the figure of value in carmine, in the centre of an oval. The lower denominations have *centesimi* below; the two higher, *lire*. Above the oval, *segnatasse*, from which we infer that they are issued for unpaid letter stamps.

SPAIN.—We have received two values of the new series—50 mil d' esco, blue, and 200 mil d' esco, light lilac.

COLUMBIAN STATES.—The *Philatelist* describes a $2\frac{1}{2}$ c. stamp, triangular in shape and printed in black on dull violet.

NORTH GERMAN CONFEDERATION.—Upon the authenticity of the *Stamp Collectors' Magazine*, we chronicle the emission of a set of official stamps. The shape is oblong, and the entire space is covered with the repetition of a stone colored minute inscription—*Nord Postbezirk*. Over this is printed, in black, an octagonal frame, inscribed *Nord Deutsche Post*. In the middle of the lower side, *Groschen*. On the left the word, *Dienst*, on the right, *Sache*. The values are $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, 1 and 2 sqr., all in the same colors, light stone and black.

PERU.—A series of new stamps is now being prepared by the National Bank Note Company for this Government.

SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC.—The three-penny mauve has appeared.

PHILATELIC ITEMS.

THE postage to Italy has been reduced from fifteen cents to ten cents per half ounce.

PARIS has founded a museum of stamps at the Mint. [*Continental Philatelic Magazine*.] [We hope the United States Mint will profit by the example. *Ed.*]

NOT TRUE.

The report that the Postmaster General had solicited the "Double Headed Girl," now on exhibition in Newark, N. J., to sit for a photograph, that he might have an appropriate illustration on the new six cent stamps, used for *double postage*, is without foundation in fact.

ST. LOUIS STAMPS.

An article on these stamps, with the affidavit of the engraver, will appear in our next issue.

NEW SERIES OF PACKETS.

Send stamp for price list.

SCOTT'S AMERICAN ALBUM.

This is undoubtedly the best and cheapest stamp album extant. Brought up to the present time, and with blank pages for future issues.

Bound in cloth, \$5 00
" half morocco, 6 00

Postage, 25 cents extra.

MASON & CO., No. 50 North Tenth Street, Philada.

PORTRAITS FOR SCOTT'S AMERICAN ALBUM.

The set of fifty portraits, post free, \$1 00

MASON & CO., No. 50 North Tenth Street, Philada.

UNITED STATES STAMPS.

The issue of 1851 (set of eight), unused, post free, \$1 25

MASON & CO., No. 50 North Tenth Street, Philada.

STAMP AND MONOGRAM ALBUM.

A large assortment at prices ranging from \$1 00 to \$6 00. Send stamp for list of publications.

MASON & CO., No. 50 North Tenth Street, Philada.

JUST RECEIVED.

Set of the New South African Republic, 1 penny, 6 penny, 1 shilling, post free, \$1 50

1 penny, red, 15

MASON & CO., No. 50 North Tenth Street, Philada.

UNITED STATES STAMPS.

A few of the 1869 issue of United States stamps, unused, for sale at 50 per cent advance on facial value. These stamps will soon be superceded by the new issue, and it would be well for collectors to procure the higher values before the price advances.

MASON & CO., No. 50 North Tenth Street, Philada.

CHEAP SETS.

Bergedorf, set of five, \$ 50
Saxony, " six, 10
Brunswick, " five, 15
Nicaragua, " two, 35
Servia, " eight, 1869, 1 05

MASON & CO., No. 50 North Tenth Street, Philada.

ALBUMS.

Stamp Albums, from \$1 00 to \$6 00
Monogram Albums, from 50 to \$3 00

MASON & CO., No. 50 North Tenth Street, Philada.